

that they know that their contributions and sacrifices are as highly valued as those of our military personnel.

The Foreign Service Line of Duty Death Gratuity Act would authorize the Department of State to provide compensation for the families of fallen Foreign Service employees that is comparable to what is provided to the families of fallen military personnel.

Under current law, the surviving family members of an American Foreign Service employee are entitled to one year's salary and the proceeds of their federal life insurance benefit. In contrast, the family of a fallen member of the military is entitled to an enhanced life insurance and death gratuity that was authorized by the United States Congress in 2005. This is a disparity that can no longer be overlooked.

The Foreign Service Line of Duty Death Gratuity Act would ensure that the families of Foreign Service employees receive, at a minimum, a death gratuity equal of \$100,000, matching the benefit provided to military personnel. An enhanced life insurance benefit of at least \$400,000 for Foreign Service employees serving at a recognized danger pay post also matches the benefit available to military personnel participating in combat operations or stationed in combat zones. Foreign Service employees with a higher yearly salary or life insurance payout will maintain their benefits as they exist under current law.

This legislation also recognizes our moral obligation to the families of the twelve Americans killed in the August 1998 Al Qaeda bombing of the U.S. Embassy in Nairobi, Kenya. Many of the surviving family members of that incident have endured significant and continuing financial and personal hardships that serve as a poignant example of the burdens faced by such survivors. These families have been unable to seek damages through the courts as other families in similar situations have because such actions are limited to state-sponsored acts of terror.

Similar legislation has passed the House of Representatives in previous Congressional sessions, but failed to clear the hurdle of the United States Senate. Then-Congressman ROY BLUNT (R-MO) continually led this effort over the years, and I am honored to carry the torch during the 112th Congress.

As we approach the 10th Anniversary of the September 11th attacks, we need to recognize the individuals who died at the hand of a terrorist attack three years before 9/11, and uphold our foremost responsibility to our courageous and dedicated Foreign Service employees and their families.

MEMORIAL TRIBUTE FOR
CRYPTOLOGIC TECHNICIAN
PETTY OFFICER FIRST CLASS
MICHAEL JOSEPH STRANGE

HON. KAY GRANGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 9, 2011

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Cryptologic Technician Petty Officer First Class Michael Joseph Strange who died August 6th in Wardak Province, Afghanistan. Petty Officer Strange was a patriot and a hero who made the ultimate sacrifice ensuring the

security of our nation. He will be greatly missed.

Petty Officer Strange was a highly decorated combat veteran with numerous awards, including the Bronze Star Medal with Valor, Purple Heart Medal, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Joint Service Commendation Medal with Valor, Joint Service Achievement Medal, Combat Action Ribbon, Presidential Unit Citation, and other campaign and unit decorations.

Petty Officer Strange is survived by his loving family, friends, and teammates.

His nation owes Petty Officer Strange an enormous debt of gratitude. We are honored to have had such an exemplary American fighting for his country.

I wish to extend my condolences to Petty Officer Strange's family, friends, and teammates and hope they continue to find solace in his lasting impact on his grateful nation. Our thoughts and prayers are with them.

IN SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF
EVERETT M. WOODEL, JR. FOR
HIS SERVICE AS DISTRICT DI-
RECTOR OF OHIO'S FIFTH CON-
GRESSIONAL DISTRICT OFFICES

HON. ROBERT E. LATTA

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 9, 2011

Mr. LATTA. Mr. Speaker, it is my great pleasure to pay special tribute to an outstanding public servant from Ohio's Fifth Congressional District. My District Director, Everett M. Woodel, Jr. of Port Clinton, Ohio left after twelve years of service to Ohio's Fifth Congressional District Offices.

Everett Woodel began his service to Ohio's Fifth Congressional District as a District Representative to the late Congressman Paul E. Gillmor. During his tenure with the late Congressman Gillmor, Everett also filled the role as the Deputy Communications Director. Following the vacancy left by the late Congressman Gillmor, Everett's professionalism and dedication to the constituents and issues of Ohio's Fifth Congressional District made him an outstanding pick to serve as the Deputy District Director. In 2010, when my former District Director retired, Everett handily took over the position as District Director.

A veteran of the United States Army, Everett has served our country with pride and compassion. As a public servant, I have found Everett to be dedicated to the citizens of Northwest Ohio, not only managing the day to day functions of my district offices, but also demonstrating that the well-being of the constituents of Ohio's Fifth Congressional District is paramount in making this the hallmark of his career with the United States House of Representatives. Everett will continue his commitment to public service as he has accepted a position with the State of Ohio's Industrial Commission.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Everett M. Woodel, Jr. for his roles in Ohio's Fifth District Offices. Our communities have undoubtedly benefited from his years of faithful service. We wish Everett M. Woodel, Jr. all of the best upon his departure as District Director of Ohio's Fifth Congressional District Offices.

9/11 COMMEMORATION CEREMONY
REMEMBRANCE CEREMONY

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 9, 2011

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, September 11, 2001, is a day forever etched into the memory of the American people. On that day 10 years ago, over 3,000 innocent people, including nine Texans, died during the attacks on the World Trade Center, the Pentagon, and aboard Flight 93. We gather at this Valor Commitment Dedication to honor both their memory and the sacrifices of their families. We also renew our commitment to honoring the sacrifice and service of the citizens who risked their lives to help all those impacted on that terrible day. Firefighters, police officers, and first responders saved thousands of victims, and nearly 350 rescue personnel gave their lives in the service of others. It is because of their bravery that many of us knew 9/11 would not be the downfall of our great nation, despite what those who attacked us intended.

While 9/11 is a day of great solemnity, it is also a moment of pride. Our reaction as a country to those events—both during the events and afterward—reveals much about us as a people. Our enemies thought they could break our spirit and crush our will, but they failed to realize our resolve and resilience. As President George Bush said only days later, "America today is on bended knee, in prayer for the people whose lives were lost here, for the workers who work here, for the families that mourn." They sought to divide us, but they mistook the strength of our convictions for the inability to act and the wisdom of liberty for frailty of arms. And they certainly failed to understand the breadth of our unity and the depth of our commitment to freedom both here and around the world.

As we look back on the 10 years since the attacks, we are reminded that the United States still faces enemies who spread fear and hate through terrorism and brutality. Congress, the Presidency, and the federal government have an obligation and duty to protect our nation. We have made great strides since that terrible day, but there is still much to be done. This Remembrance Service is a sign that we are moving forward as a nation, and that while we may have bent on 9/11, we shall never be broken.

MEMORIAL TRIBUTE FOR CHIEF
PETTY OFFICER SPECIAL WAR-
FARE OPERATOR JON THOMAS
TUMILSON

HON. KAY GRANGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 9, 2011

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Chief Petty Officer Special Warfare Operator Jon Thomas Tumilson who died August 6th in Wardak Province, Afghanistan. Chief Tumilson was a patriot and a hero who made the ultimate sacrifice ensuring the security of our nation. He will be greatly missed.

Chief Tumilson was a highly decorated combat veteran with numerous awards, including